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*Report from Genoa—Method of destroying rats.*GENOA, ITALY, *April 23, 1900.*

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith the abstract of bills of health and the regular report for the week ended April 22, 1900. On April 19, steamship *Aller*, North German Lloyd Line, bound for New York; 28 cabin and 265 steerage passengers, and 247 pieces of baggage were inspected and passed. The 2 steerage passengers held over from last week embarked on this vessel, their fever having proved malarial in character.

The importance given here to the disinfection of vessels from plague-infected places, has led to the employment of a very cheap and efficient method for the destruction of rats and other vermin aboard. This method, which is original with Dr. Antonio De Ferrari, the quarantine officer of the port of Genoa, consists in burning charcoal in the hold in place of sulphur, the charcoal being ignited by aid of kerosene. After carefully sealing all the openings, 6 kilos of charcoal for each 100 cubic meters of space are consumed. An exposure of eight hours duration is considered sufficient for all practical purposes. It is claimed by Dr. De Ferrari that the practical utility of this method depends upon the lightness and greater diffusion of the gases liberated; that SO₂ is much heavier, and soon gravitates, on cooling, to the lower portion of the space, leaving animals alive in the nooks and crannies of the upper section.

Respectfully,

RUPERT BLUE,

Passed Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

The SURGEON-GENERAL,

*U. S. Marine Hospital Service.**Report from Naples—Suspected plague on steamship Raffaele Rubattino.*NAPLES, ITALY, *April 18, 1900.*

SIR: I have the honor to report that for the week ended April 18, 1900, the following ships were inspected:

On April 13, the steamship *Trave*, of the North German Lloyd Steamship Company, bound with passengers and cargo for New York. There were inspected and passed 37 cabin and 678 steerage passengers and 65 pieces of large and 570 pieces of small baggage; 380 pieces of baggage were disinfected by steam.

On April 18, the steamship *Spartan Prince* of the Prince Line, bound with passengers and cargo for New York. There were inspected and passed 5 cabin and 979 steerage passengers and 107 pieces of large and 697 pieces of small baggage. Two hundred and twenty-two pieces of baggage were disinfected by steam.

Plague.

The Italian steamship *Raffaele Rubattino*, from Bombay, which reached Italy April 15, with a case of suspected plague on board, was remanded to Asinara for further observation.

Smallpox.

No further cases of smallpox have been reported from Sicily, nor have any more been observed among the emigrants from that island.

An epidemic of smallpox has been unofficially reported at Reggio, Calabria.

Until more definite information is at hand all baggage from that district will be disinfected.

Respectfully,

VICTOR G. HEISER,
Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

The SURGEON-GENERAL,
U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.

NAPLES, ITALY, *April 25, 1900.*

SIR: I have the honor to report that for the week ended April 25, 1900, the following ships were inspected:

On April 20, the steamship *Aller*, of the North-German Lloyd Steamship Company, bound with passengers and cargo for New York. There were inspected and passed 70 cabin and 530 steerage passengers and 134 pieces of large and 567 pieces of small baggage. One hundred and fifty-five pieces of baggage were disinfected by steam.

On April 24 the steamship *Sempione*, of the Italian Navigation Company, bound with passengers and cargo for New York. There were inspected and passed 749 steerage passengers and 52 pieces of large and 550 pieces of small baggage. Nine hundred pieces of baggage were disinfected by steam.

On April 24 the steamship *Victoria*, of the Anchor Line, bound with passengers and cargo for New York. There were inspected and passed 1,121 steerage passengers and 61 pieces of large and 1,125 pieces of small baggage. Three hundred pieces of baggage were disinfected by steam.

Respectfully,

VICTOR G. HEISER,
Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

The SURGEON-GENERAL,
U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.

Quarantine against Port Said on account of plague.

WASHINGTON, D. C., *May 5, 1900.*

SIR: I have the honor to advise you that I am informed by the Italian ambassador at this capital that Port Said has been declared by his Government infected with the bubonic plague, and that vessels from that port will be subject in Italy to quarantine ordinances 3 and 6 of 1897 and 1 and 10 of 1900.

Respectfully,

JOHN HAY,
Secretary of State.

HON. SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY.

JAPAN.

Concerning rumors of plague—Plague in Formosa.

YOKOHAMA, JAPAN, *April 12, 1900.*

SIR: I have the honor to report that the sanitary condition of Japan appears to be, on the whole and from the point of view of the existence of quarantinable disease, satisfactory.

Within a few days rumors have been circulated that many rats are dying at Osaka, and even that cases, fairly suspected to be of plague, had occurred there in the human subject.

As the rumors referred to have owed their dissemination to native papers of antiadministration politics, they must, perhaps, be taken with allowance. However, the central sanitary bureau disclaiming any knowledge of the asserted facts, I, on the 9th instant, telegraphed to